GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2468
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Quality of Higher Education
Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that India ranks at 73 out of 74 countries in terms of quality of education;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the efforts made by the Government so far to improve the standard of higher education in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) and (b): India ranked 73 out of 74 in the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) rankings conducted by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which assesses a child's learning in terms of competencies. The revised National Assessment Survey (NAS) conducted by NCERT will now also be a competency based test from 2016-17. It is expected that the proficiency of students to give PISA type tests will increase after they have given the revised NAS tests a few times.
(c) : Improving the quality of education across all levels is well recognized and is a continuous and ongoing process. Various schemes, namely, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme(TEQIP), Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT) Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), National Digital Library, campus connect programme, Uchhatar Avishkar Abhiyan, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan are being implemented to improve the quality of higher education in the country. A number of initiatives are also undertaken by UGC and AICTE for quality improvement in higher and technical education. With a view to improving the competitiveness of the higher educational institutions, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been launched on September 29, 2015. The first India Rankings 2016 have been announced on 04.04.2016 and are available at https://www.nirfindia.org/Home
Presently, the Government is in the process of framing a New Education Policy (NEP), for which it carried out nearly a year-long consultations through online, grassroots through States and thematic deliberations across 33 themes, which also covered issues relating to the quality of education. The Government of India has constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy and the suggestions received have been sent to the Committee, which is expected to formulate a draft National Education Policy as well as a Framework for Action (FFA).

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